



Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of preparing kolla² powder cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form, comprising the following steps of:

- (a) cutting fresh 4-6 week young avian sternal cartilage to within not less than about 2.5 mm of the cartilage bone. Cartilage then deep frozen; 2 mm of the sternum and removing the cut sternal cartilage from the sternum;
- (b) grinding frozen cartilage into ground mush freezing the cut sternal cartilage into frozen cartilage;
- (c) suspending cartilage in an aqueous solutions grinding the frozen cartilage into ground mush cartilage;
- (d) sterilizing ground cartilage suspending the ground cartilage in an aqueous solution;
- (e) filtering ground cartilage sterilizing the ground cartilage;
- (f) filtering the sterilized ground cartilage;
- (g) defatting and filtration defatting the ground cartilage;
- (h) drying ground cartilage filtering the defatted ground cartilage;
- (i) milling ground cartilage to form kolla² powder drying the ground cartilage; and
- (j) milling the dried ground cartilage into powder form.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 10 whereas wherein the aqueous solutions solution is waters water.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 10 whereas wherein the sterilization process is heating ground cartilage at about 95 C for about 35 minutes sterilizing of the ground cartilage is accomplished by heating the ground cartilage at a minimum of 95 C for a minimum of 30 minutes.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 10 whereas wherein the defatting of the ground cartilage with is accomplished by using ethanol.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein the drying of the ground cartilage is accomplished by heating the ground cartilage at a minimum of 95 C for a minimum of 6 hours.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, whereas wherein the dried ground cartilage is milled into a fine powder form having a size between about 80 mesh to 200 mesh.

Claim 16 (new): Cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form; said material comprising collagen type II derived from avian sternal cartilage and having an average molecular weight of between about 45,000 and 65,000 daltons.

Claim 17 (new): A method for treating an individual with a connective tissue disorder, comprising administering to said individual an effective daily amount of cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form having an average molecular weight of between about 45,000 and 65,000 daltons.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 17, wherein said connective tissue disorder is selected from the group consisting of degenerative joint diseases, joint defects, osteoarthritis, polychondritis, vascular disease, cartilage injuries, silicone poisoning, autoimmune diseases, progressive myopia, and menier's disease.

Claim 19 (new): The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of administering a daily dose between about 600 mg and 10,000 mg of cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of administering a daily dose between about 2,400 mg and 3,600 mg of cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form.

Claim 21 (new): A method of providing cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form to an individual as a nutritional supplement, comprising administering to said individual an effective daily amount of cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form having an average molecular weight of between about 45,000 and 65,000 daltons.